GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4856
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2001
OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF F.C.I.
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have initiated any action to improve the operationalefficiency of the Food Corporation of India for food procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the other steps taken to enlarge foodgrains procurement work in view of bumper crop production?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a)&(b): The Food Corporation of India has been procuring foodgrains efficiently.To facilitate procurement, FCI and the State Agencies opened about 7990 purchase centers in procuring States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh during the Rabi Marketing Season 2001-02.

(c): The following steps have been taken to enlarge foodgrains procurement work in view of bumper crop production:-

i) The locations of purchase centers have been decided mutually by the State Governments and FCI.

ii) Adequate cash credit facilities have been arranged by FCI to ensure prompt payment for their produce.

iii) Transport arrangements for movements of foodgrain stocks from mandies to the depots etc. have also been finalized.

iv) Adequate number of Quality control Staff has been posted in the purchase centres/mandies for analysis of the wheat which is being offered in order to ensure that it is as per quality specification fixed by the Government of India.

v) In order to closely monitor the Minimum Support Price Scheme, Special Control Rooms areset up in the FCI at their Headquarters as well as regional offices to collect and compile daily procurement figures from the State Governments and other procuring agencies. These Control Rooms work on 24 hours basis during the peak procurement season.

vi) Due care is taken to avoid distress sale by the farmers below the support prices.